

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and determined that the action of designating critical habitat for the spinedace (*Meda fulgida*) and the loach minnow (*Tiaroga = (Rhinichthys) cobitis*) pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended:

Check One:

- ☐ is a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) as provided by 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, and/or 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 (*reference which CatEx was used for this determination*). No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made.
- ☒ is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.
- ☐ is found to have significant effects and, therefore, further consideration of this action will require a Notice of Intent to be published in the Federal register announcing the decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- ☐ is not approved because of unacceptable environmental damage, or violation of Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, policies, regulations, or procedures.
- ☐ is an emergency action within the context of 40 CFR 1506.11. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Signature Approval

(1) Chief, Endangered Species

Date

(2) Regional Environmental Coordinator

Date

(3) Programmatic ARD

Date

(4) Geographic ARD

Date

(5) Regional Director

Date